

Tennessee Combat Engineers train in Okinawa's jungle

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JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Okinawa, Japan

— During regular training routines, Marines from Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, Knoxville, Tenn., can be found clearing minefields, constructing bunkers and improving and repairing roads.

Recently, these Marines put regular training aside and left behind the rolling hills and country music of Tennessee for red clay cliffs, single canopy jungle and a refresher course on infantry skills.

Annual training brought the Marine Corps Reserve unit to Okinawa for the Basic Jungle Warfare Skills Course.

During this training the Marines donned camouflage paint, snatched-up their Special Exercises Small Arms Marking System (SESAMS) rifles and headed into the jungle for a patrolling exercise complete with realistic combat scenarios in acres of rugged terrain.

"It's good training," said Sgt. Bryan Wallgren, instructor, JWTC. "They learn how hard it is to launch a patrol. They have to be able to do land navigation and have accountability, because nobody is out there in the jungle with them to baby-sit. It gives them an idea of what it's like to be a grunt."

The exercise began with a midnight wake-up call from the instructors and the platoon leader issuing a patrol order.

"A good platoon leader will get a warning order out as soon as they get the first intel report," said Wallgren.

The patrol order included envi-



Cpl. Anthony Barnes, maintenance technician, 4th Combat Engineer Bn., Knoxville, Tenn., scans the jungle as he leads his fire team on a reconnaissance mission during a recent training exercise in Okinawa, Japan.

ronmental and human elements and was organized according to the five-paragraph order, which included the situation, mission, execution, administration and logistics and command and signals — essential to mission accomplishment.

Intelligence reports, created by the instructors, provided a realistic combat scenario. The information these reports provided was what the unit leaders needed to coordinate ambush and reconnaissance missions.

The CEB Marines were facing a platoon-size guerilla force from the fictitious Smithenisoen Army's 125th Battalion.

Armed with the information, maps, compasses, grid coordinates and SESAMS rifles, the engineers entered the jungle.

"This is something we wouldn't get to do back in Tennessee," said Lance Cpl. Lee Bartelett, maintenance technician, 4th CEB.

"It was a great chance to learn about the terrain," said Cpl. Anthony Barnes, maintenance technician, 4th CEB. "Plus, we learned a lot about patrolling tactics and land navigation."

Barnes' fire team was sent on a reconnaissance mission during the exercise.

"These Marines are learning basic patrolling knowledge," said Staff Sgt. Kevin Mendel, instructor, JWTC, "so they can return to base and teach their fellow Marines that didn't or couldn't come out to train. It gets the non-grunts out into the field."